

COLLECTING, COMPILING, AND PUBLISHING STATISTICS
OF FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 21, 1921.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of
the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COOPER, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 15448.]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 15448), having considered the same, report thereon with amendment, and as so amended recommend that it pass.

Amend the bill as follows:

Page 1, line 6, after the word "house," insert "city of," and after the words "New York," as first appears in line 6, insert the words "State of."

Page 2, line 8, strike out the word "customhouse" and insert the word "custom-house."

Page 2, line 9, after the word "space," strike out the word "if."

Page 2, line 10, strike out the word "and."

This bill proposes to consolidate the work of collecting, compiling, and publishing statistics of the foreign commerce of the United States in the Department of Commerce by transferring the Bureau of Customs Statistics from the jurisdiction of the Department of the Treasury to the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. It consolidates this bureau with the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the Department of Commerce.

At present the Bureau of Customs Statistics is located in the city of New York, but under this bill it would be located in either Washington or New York, or partly in either place, in the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce. The bill transfers all unexpended appropriations or allotments from appropriation available for the maintenance or expenses of the Bureau of Customs Statistics from the appropriation of the Treasury Department to the appropriation of the Department of Commerce, to be available for the necessary work of the bureau either in the District of Columbia or elsewhere.

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, in reporting out this bill and recommending it for passage by the House of Representatives, follows the advice of the Acting Secretary of Commerce, who transmitted a draft of the bill to the Speaker of the House of Representatives under date of December 23, 1920, with a letter of explanation which accompanies this report. The Acting Secretary presented the draft of the bill in conformity with the desire of the Appropriations Committee that no legislation of a general character, subject to a point of order, should be included in an appropriation bill.

The Secretary of the Treasury favors the transfer of the Bureau of Customs Statistics from his department to the Department of Commerce as a measure of efficiency and economy, and so states in his letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives under date of December 4, 1920.

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce urges favorable action by the House, because it believes that this bill is a step toward reorganization of the Government departments and bureaus in the interest of economy and efficiency, and in order to put an end to present overlapping and duplication of effort, which can be taken at once.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, December 23, 1920.

MY DEAR MR. SPEAKER: There is transmitted herewith, for submission to Congress, a draft, in duplicate, of a proposed bill to consolidate the work of collecting, compiling, and publishing foreign trade statistics in the Department of Commerce by transferring the Bureau of Customs Statistics under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department, located in the New York Customhouse, from that department to the Department of Commerce. A similar proposition was included in supplemental estimate of appropriation submitted at this session of Congress and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

The department has been informed that it is the desire of the Appropriations Committee to include no legislation of a general character, which would be subject to a point of order, in the appropriation bills, and that such legislation should be enacted in a separate bill. The proposed transfer of the Bureau of Customs Statistics from the Treasury to the Commerce Department has received the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. The advantages of consolidating the statistical service in the Department of Commerce are explained in detail in the department's letter of November 29, 1920, to the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the before-mentioned estimate for submission to Congress, which is printed in House Document No. 910, Sixty-sixth Congress, third session.

Respectfully,

E. F. SWEET,
Acting Secretary of Commerce.

HON. FREDERICK H. GILLET,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.